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SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walter BALZAN (Malta)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled:

"Special economic and disaster relief assistance:

"(a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator;

"(b) Special programmes of economic assistance"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item, together with item 88, "International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola", and item 144, "International cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery".

3. The items were considered at the 25th, 26th and 40th meetings, on 29 October and 16 November. Action on item 87 was taken at the 28th, 30th, 34th, 38th, 42nd, 45th, 46th, ___ meetings, on 5, 6, 10, 12, 18, 24, 25,

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* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in two parts (see also A/47/727/Add.1).

___ November (see A/C.2/47/SR.28, 30, 34, 38, 42, 45, 46, ___. An account of the Committee's discussion of the items is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/47/SR.25, 26, and 40). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 9th meetings, from 5 to 8 October (see A/C.2/47/SR.3-9).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 21 July 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations addressed tc the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Communiqué of the Thirteenth Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, which was held at Port-of-Spain from 29 June to 2 July 1992 (A/47/344);

(b) Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, enclosing a copy of the declaration on Somalia made by the European Community Foreign Ministers at their informal meeting at Brocket Hall on 12 and 13 September 1992 (A/47/440-S/24558);

(c) Letter dated 4 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, enclosing the text of a joint statement of the Government of the Sudan and the United Nations on humanitarian assistance to the Sudan, containing the provisions of the agreement concluded between the two parties on 16 September 1992, following the visit of Mr. Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs (A/C.2/47/5);

(a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (A/47/288-E/1992/94);

(b) Special programmes of economic assistance

(e) Note verbale dated 30 April 1992 from the Permanent Mission of Botswana to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/187);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (A/47/291-E/1992/95);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on Benin, the Central African Republic, Chad, Djibouti, Ecuador, Madagascar, Vanuatu and Yemen (A/47/337);

(h) Letter dated 2 September 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting two appeals made by the President of the Republic of Senegal, in his dual capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity and current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to the Sovereigns and Heads of State and Government of the member countries of those two organizations, for emergency humanitarian assistance to the Somali people (A/47/420-S/24519);

(i) Letter dated 16 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/455-S/24571);

(j) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Liberia (A/47/528);

(k) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique (A/47/539);

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance for humanitarian relief and the economic and social rehabilitation of Somalia (A/47/553);

(m) Report of the Secretary-General on emergency assistance to the Sudan and Operation Lifeline Sudan (A/47/554);

(n) Letter dated 19 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, enclosing a copy of the declaration on Somalia made by the Special European Council of the European Community at its meeting at Birmingham on 16 October 1992 (A/47/562-S/24691);

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on special assistance to front-line States and other bordering States (A/47/573).

5. At the 25th meeting, on 29 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the Director of the Department of Political Affairs and the Coordinator of Assistance to the Least Developed Countries, Regional Bureau for Africa of the United Nations Development Programme (see A/C.2/47/SR.25).

6. At the 40th meeting, on 16 November, an introductory statement was made by the Director of the Branch on Pacific Settlements Procedures in Africa, Department of Political Affairs (see A/C.2/47/SR.40).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/47/L.26 AND REV.1

(b) Special programmes of economic assistance

7. At the 38th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of the United Republic of Tanzania, also on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, China, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, India, Indonesia, Italy, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/47/L.26) entitled "Assistance to Mozambique", which read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling Security Council resolutions 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976 and 782 (1992) of 13 October 1992,

"Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990, in which it urged the international community to respond effectively and generously to the call for assistance to Mozambique,

"Reaffirming the principles for humanitarian assistance contained in its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

"Noting the signing at Rome, on 16 July 1992, of the Declaration on guiding principles for humanitarian assistance, which permits the expansion of relief programmes to cover all affected people in the country, and urging all parties concerned to implement the Declaration,

"Welcoming the signing at Rome, on 4 October 1992, of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, whose main goals are the establishment of lasting peace, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in that country,

"Stressing the need for a sustained effort by the international community to respond to the increasing and urgent emergency humanitarian needs of the people of Mozambique, in the light of the current severe drought and the evolving process of repatriation of refugees and normalization of the lives of displaced persons,

"Stressing further that a proper response to the current situation in Mozambique requires substantial international assistance in a comprehensive and integrated manner, linking emergency relief aid with additional rehabilitation and development assistance,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique, 1/

"1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system for the measures taken to organize international assistance programmes for Mozambique;

"3. Expresses its gratitude to all States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have rendered assistance to Mozambique;

"4. Expresses its satisfaction at the entering into force, on 15 October 1992, of the General Peace Agreement, in particular the cease-fire, which creates favourable conditions for the implementation of programmes of economic and social rehabilitation and the overall process of national reconstruction;

"5. Urges the international community, in particular the United Nations system, to extend its full support and contribute to the peace-building process in Mozambique in accordance with the General Peace Agreement, providing, inter alia, assistance for the electoral process, emergency and rehabilitation assistance for refugees and displaced persons and support for programmes of demobilization of armed forces;

"6. Notes with appreciation the establishment, in Mozambique, of a Committee on Humanitarian Assistance, with the participation of the United Nations, and the formulation of a unified plan for the delivery of relief assistance throughout the country;

"7. Draws the attention of the international community to the unmet funding needs referred to in the 1992/93 Emergency Programme for Mozambique and the United Nations/Southern Africa Development Community Appeal for the Drought Emergency in Southern Africa;

"8. "Calls upon all States, regional and interregional organizations, other intergovernmental organizational and international non-governmental organizations to intensify their development cooperation and assistance in support of the process of national reconstruction of Mozambique;

"9. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of Mozambique:

1/ A/47/539.

"(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize the international assistance required by Mozambique;

"(b) To ensure the coordination of the work of the United Nations system for an adequate response to the emergency, rehabilitation and development needs of Mozambique;

"(c) [To prepare a report on assistance to Mozambique for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.]"

8. At its 45th meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/47/L.26/Rev.1) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.2/47/26 joined by El Salvador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Malawi, Poland, Thailand, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Colombia, Finland and Zambia joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

9. The Committee was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.26/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 11).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Assistance to Mozambique

The General Assembly,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 386 (1976) of 17 March 1976 and 782 (1992) of 13 October 1992,

Recalling also its relevant resolutions, in particular resolution 45/227 of 21 December 1990, in which it urged the international community to respond effectively and generously to the call for assistance to Mozambique,

Reaffirming the principles for humanitarian assistance contained in its resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991,

Noting the signing at Rome, on 16 July 1992, of the Declaration on Guiding Principles for Humanitarian Assistance, which permits the expansion of relief programmes to cover all affected people in the country, and urging all parties concerned to implement the Declaration,

Welcoming the signing at Rome, on 4 October 1992, of the General Peace Agreement for Mozambique, 2/ whose main goals are the establishment of lasting peace, the enhancement of democracy and the promotion of national reconciliation in that country,

Stressing the need for a sustained effort by the international community to respond to the increasing and urgent emergency humanitarian needs of the people of Mozambique, in the light of the current severe drought and the evolving process of repatriation of refugees and normalization of the lives of displaced persons,

Stressing also that a proper response to the current situation in Mozambique requires substantial international assistance in a comprehensive and integrated manner, linking emergency relief aid with additional rehabilitation and development assistance,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to Mozambique, 3/

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the relevant organizations of the United Nations system for the measures taken to organize international assistance programmes for Mozambique;

3. Expresses its gratitude to all States and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that have rendered assistance to Mozambique;

4. Expresses its satisfaction at the entry into force, on 15 October 1992, of the General Peace Agreement, in particular the cease-fire, which creates favourable conditions for the implementation of programmes of economic and social rehabilitation and the overall process of national reconstruction;

5. Urges the international community, in particular the United Nations system, to extend its full support and contribute to the peace-building process in Mozambique in accordance with the General Peace Agreement, providing, inter alia, assistance for the electoral process, emergency and rehabilitation assistance for refugees and displaced persons and support for programmes of demobilization of armed forces;

2/ S/24635, annex.

3/ A/47/539.

6. Also urges the international community, in the context of paragraph 5 above, to support and participate actively in the forthcoming conference of donor countries and organizations, to be held at Rome on 15 and 16 December 1992;

7. Notes with appreciation the establishment, in Mozambique, of a Committee on Humanitarian Assistance, with the participation of the United Nations, and the formulation of a unified plan for the delivery of relief assistance throughout the country;

8. Draws the attention of the international community to the unmet funding needs referred to in the 1992/93 Emergency Programme for Mozambique and the United Nations/Southern Africa Development Community Appeal for the Drought Emergency in Southern Africa;

9. Calls upon all States, regional and interregional organizations, other intergovernmental organizations and international non-governmental organizations to intensify their development cooperation and assistance in support of the process of national reconstruction of Mozambique;

10. Requests the Secretary-General, in close cooperation with the Government of Mozambique:

(a) To continue his efforts to mobilize the international assistance required by Mozambique;

(b) To ensure the coordination of the work of the United Nations system for an adequate response to the emergency, rehabilitation and development needs of Mozambique;

(c) To prepare a report on assistance to Mozambique for submission to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session.